Lynn Ducey, Phoenix Business Journal

A measure introduced by a Minnesota Congresswoman has the support of Arizona and national nonprofit leaders.

Introduced Tuesday by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., the Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act calls for the federal government to collect information and data about nonprofits across the nation.

"In Arizona, nonprofits are the heart of the community. We are too important to be invisible. For too long, government has ignored the nonprofit sector, which employs 10 percent of America's work force and is often an unrecognized partner in delivering government services," Patrick McWhortor, president and CEO of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits.

McWhorter and other industry leaders attended an event highlighting the measure's introduction.

"This legislation is the beginning of a new, positive conversation about the nonprofit sector in Washington and across the country," said McCollum. "If Congress can work with leaders in the nonprofit and foundation communities we can build a stronger nonprofit sector, craft smarter federal policy, and create more vibrant communities in every state."

Tim Delaney, president and CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits, said his organization supports the measure. "This landmark legislation removes the cloak of invisibility that the federal government seems to have draped over the nonprofit sector," he said.

Read more: Nonprofit data bill rallies support in Arizona - Phoenix Business Journal